



ASK EPA !!

Questions and Answers

about Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

Q : Why were some Libby residences left so long without top soil after contaminated soil was removed?

A : EPA is currently caught up on all properties. The waiting time for top soil has decreased from weeks to days. EPA apologizes for the delay.

EPA's top soil for backfill after excavating contaminated soil used to come from a Libby source. Initially it met government specifications for top soil but, over time, samples from this source showed that the quality deteriorated. This was due to the high clay content characteristic of Libby soils. EPA had to find another source that met specifications.

There was a four-week delay in finding a new source while EPA sampled several potential sources of top soil and waited for the lab analysis.

The closest acceptable source was found 70 miles away, in Eureka. Because of the increased transport time from Eureka, the soil provider hauled on Saturdays to bring in as much soil as possible to have ready in Libby. This process worked fine until transportation and placement of top soil in yards was delayed by several rain events.

EPA does not need more top soil this construction season. A source in Libby has been found for next year's outdoor cleanup.

For more information call toll free:

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